Growth Centres opened in H.P.

3101. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) The number of growth centres opened during the Eighth Five Year plan in Himachal pradesh;

(b) The extent to which these growth centres could achieve their objectives; and

(c) The number of growth centres proposed to be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan in Himachal Pradesh with the details of their locations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) One growth Centre has been allotted to the Himachal pradesh under the Growrth Centre Seheme. The Growth Centre has been approved by the Central Government on 20-2-1997 at kangra (District Kangra).

According to the report received from the State Government on this Growth Centre a number of plots have been developed and allotted and industrial units are being set up.

Safeguarding the Interest of SSI

3102. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that with many items reserved for the small scale sector going into the Open General List, the SSI sector will be adversely affected; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are proposing to take to safeguard the interest of Small Scale Industry which generates employment for six crore people, account for 40% of GDP and contributes about 60% of the total exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Import restrictions on 714 tariff lines, were removed on 31-3-2000. Out of these only 58 are those which are of interest to small scale sector. However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties.